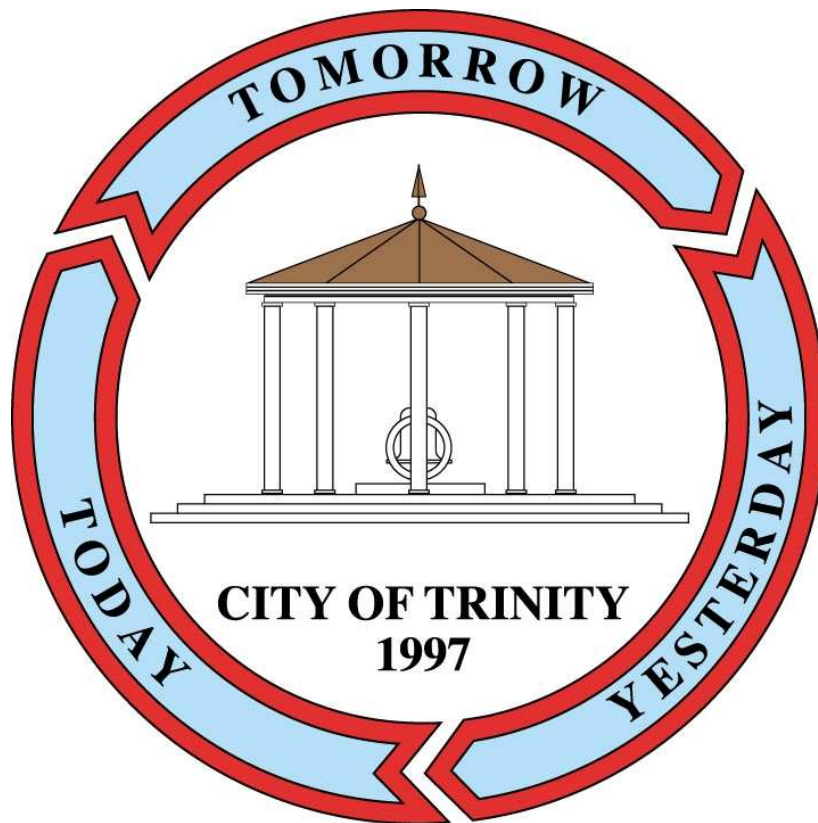# TRINITY HIGH SCHOOL CENTER CITY PLAN: STUDENT SURVEY 2009

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Trinity High School: Center City Plan Student Survey
Executive Summary

In late May 2009, teachers at Trinity High School were given packets of surveys created in order to gauge the opinions of High School students on various questions in regards to recreation, commerce, and historic preservation. The aggregate answers of this 31 question survey are to be included in the Final Recommendations in the Center City Plan and should help guide the staff and City Council in their decisions to improve the Center City planning area.

The 2008-2009 enrollment of Trinity High School was 1,368 students. We delivered 333 surveys to be distributed at random to classrooms throughout the school. 306 valid surveys were returned and the data was entered and analyzed. We can therefore say at a 95% confidence level that the results of the surveys are valid within an interval of plus or minus 4.93 points.

The questions were grouped into four related sets of questions. The first group included questions relating to commerce in Trinity and the surrounding community. The seven questions in this group polled students on how often they dine out in Trinity, if they would like more availability of dining and shopping establishments, if they planned to stay in Trinity after graduation, and if they recognized a need for increased housing availability for Trinity's young graduates.

Results from this set of questions, leads one to believe that Trinity is significantly lacking businesses for which the students have a strong desire. Students reported "sometimes" and "rarely" dining out in Trinity and "strongly agreed" that they would like more places to dine in the City. Students showed strong support for the addition of a local coffee shop and "agreed" that they would like to see the addition of more retail venues in Trinity. Sadly, most High School students are either undecided or do not intend to remain in Trinity after graduation. They did however "agree" that the City needs more housing for young graduates. In addition, over 63% of students surveyed want to see more commerce enter the City.

The second group of questions relate to recreational needs of the students. The results of these questions point to the need to improve the walkability of the community and to provide constructive outlets of recreation to the young citizens of Trinity. Students were polled about their desire for sidewalks, greenways, bike paths, crosswalks, a City Park, veteran's memorial, amphitheater, space for the arts, and a local library.

In regards to the desire for the addition of sidewalks in Trinity, student's answers were generally varied and indifferent. The interest in Greenways was only slightly more positive with almost 40% of students saying that they would "sometimes" utilize the Greenway. Responses to a desire for bike paths in Trinity were split between indifference and a negative reaction. However, when these elements of "walkability" were put in general terms, students seemed much more supportive. Over 80% of students agreed that they would like Trinity to become a more walkable community. 88.8% of students would like to see a public park on City property. Most of those students would like a veteran's memorial to be included in this project while students' responses were varied on the inclusion of an amphitheater in the park. Desire for a local library was also varied and appreciation for a local space for the arts seemed to be divided based on

personal preference and affinity for arts. Unfortunately, students seemed to be relatively indifferent to specific recreational improvements yet generally supportive of more walkable community.

The third group of questions gauged the importance of historic preservation to the THS students. The questions asked students how important the preservation of 19th and 20th century structures is to them, how important the "bell" and "new" gazebos are, and if they were aware of the relationship between Trinity and Duke University.

The results of this group of questions showed the relative unimportance of local historical preservation to the students of THS. Most students only viewed the preservation of 19th and 20th century structures as "somewhat" important or they were "neutral". Almost 90% of students were aware that Trinity was the birthplace of Duke University. Both the "bell" and "new" gazebos in town proved to be "not really" or "not at all" important to students. Historic Preservation does not appear to be a priority for the majority of THS students surveyed.

The final set of questions was simply demographic related questions. More male than female students took this survey although the school consists of 682 males and 686 females. Therefore the survey results have a bias toward the male opinion. 10th grade students completed more surveys than students from any other grade level. We had a lack of seniors answer the survey at only 16.8% of the surveys although seniors make up 22.2% of the THS population.

Some of the most informative results come from the four final questions that asked the students to either check all of the answers that applied to them or to rank a set of answer choices. These questions are: "what do you most often do after school?", "If a public park were to open at City Hall which features would you prefer?", "The City is considering improvements around the community for pedestrians and bicyclists. Please prioritize the following elements from 1 to 7 with 1 being the highest priority and 7 being the lowest." and ""If the City constructed a public greenway path that connected the City Hall with the YMCA being constructed in Archdale would you (check all that apply):".

 The results prove that most students go home or to a friend's house after school. This could be because of the lack of businesses and recreational opportunities for which the students could take part. They also show that a fishing pond is the most desired feature of a City Park. Hiking trails and exercise stations were also high on most students' priority list for park amenities. The final two questions demonstrated that sidewalks along 62 would be the most favored pedestrian improvement, and students would most likely use greenways for recreational purposes.

In order to get a better feel for the relationships between the way in which students responded to certain questions, crosstabulations were prepared. The first crosstabulation compares the responses to the question about coffee shop patronage and the desire for increased commerce. 35 students who would frequent a coffee shop "all the time" also "agreed" to the need for more commerce. This was, interestingly, split with the 35 students who would "never" frequent the coffee shop but "agreed" that the City needs more commerce. When comparing the need for "more retail" and "more commerce" it is obvious that these answers are very related. 82 students "agreed" with both statements.

When examining if students would stay in Trinity after graduation and what grade they are in, one can find that less students are "undecided" as they age. This is to be expected as post graduation plans become clearer as graduation approaches.

When comparing answers to questions about utilization of public greenways and the desire for a public park on City property, one finds that students are more likely to want a park if they would use the public greenways. The same is true when examining the Park and the question about utilization of sidewalks. The more a student would use a sidewalk, the more they are generally in of a public park.

Examining the question of walkability against both the desire for sidewalks and greenways proves the same point that could be seen in the rest of the survey analysis, that students are more favorable toward walkability in general, but not particularly in strong support of individual elements of walkability such as sidewalks, bike paths, and a greenway. The most students would only "sometimes" use a particular element, yet "agreed" for the need to increase walkability of the City.

In the most general terms, this survey showed us that students see a lack of commerce in the area and do support the addition of local businesses to the community. Students seem supportive of general recreation such as a City Park and increased walkability, yet they seem indifferent toward individual recreational elements. Finally, it is clear that the majority of the students are indifferent to historic preservation in the City.

Commerce Related Questions:

How often do you dine out in Trinity?

All the time
12 students
3.9%

Frequently
54 students
17.6%

Sometimes
101 students
33.0%

Rarely
94 students
30.7%

Never
45 students
14.7%

I would frequent a coffee shop:

All the time
65 students
21.7 %

Frequently
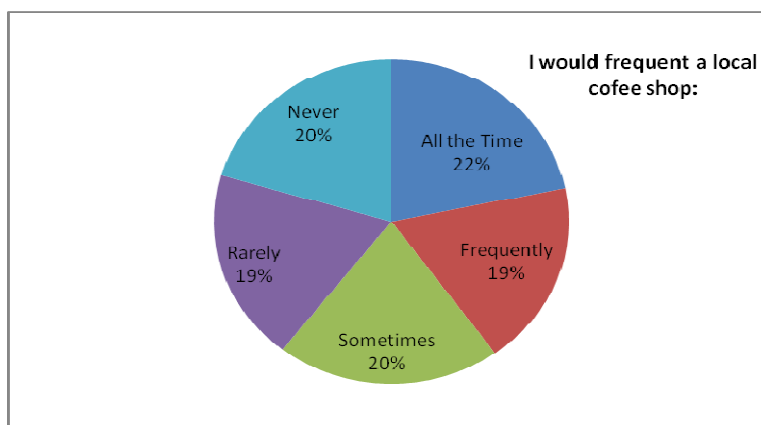56 students
18.4%

Sometimes
62 students
20.4%

Rarely
58 students
19.1%

Never
62 students
20.4%

I would frequent a local cofee shop:

- All the Time 22%
- Frequently 19%
- Sometimes 20%
- Rarely 19%
- Never 20%

I would like more places to dine in Trinity:

Strongly Agree
165 students
54.5%

Agree
116 students
38.3%

Disagree
14 students
4.6%

Strongly Disagree
8 students
2.6%

I would like more places to dine in Trinity:
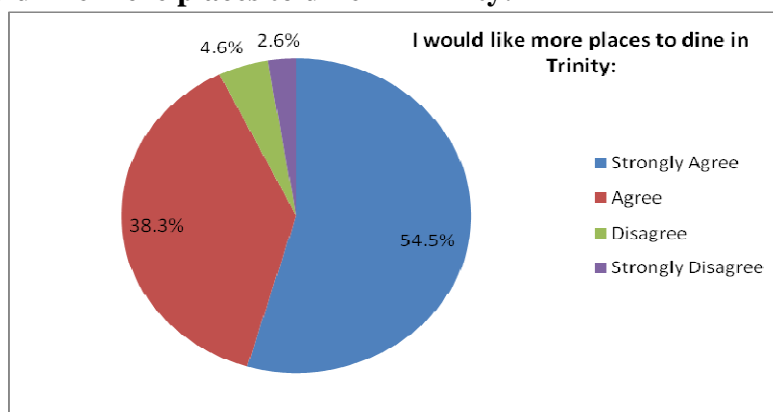
- Strongly Agree 54.5%
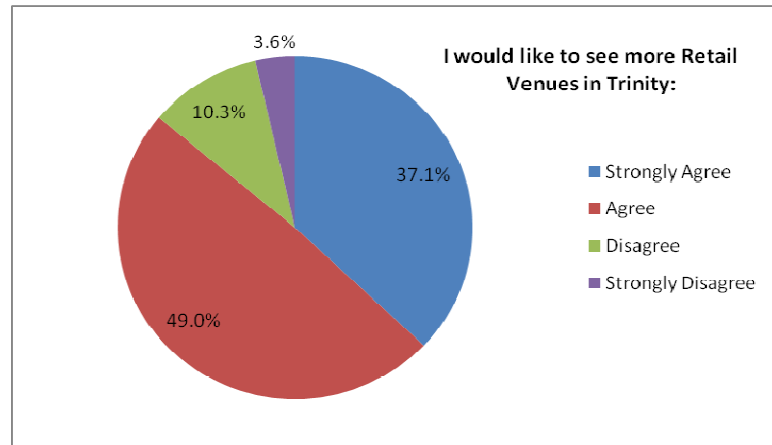- Agree 38.3%
- Disagree 4.6%
- Strongly Disagree 2.6%

I would like to see more retail venues in Trinity:

Strongly Agree
112 students
37.1%
Agree
148 students
49.0%
Disagree
31 students
10.3%
Strongly Disagree
11 students
3.6%

I plan to stay in the Trinity area after graduation from THS.

Strongly Agree
22 students
7.2%
Agree
35 students
11.4%
Undecided
111 students
36.3%
Disagree
46 students
15.0%
Strongly Disagree
92students
30.1%

I see the need for more housing in Trinity for young THS graduates.

Strongly Agree
50 students
16.4%
Agree
154 students
50.5%
Disagree
66 students
21.6%
Strongly Disagree
35 students
11.5%
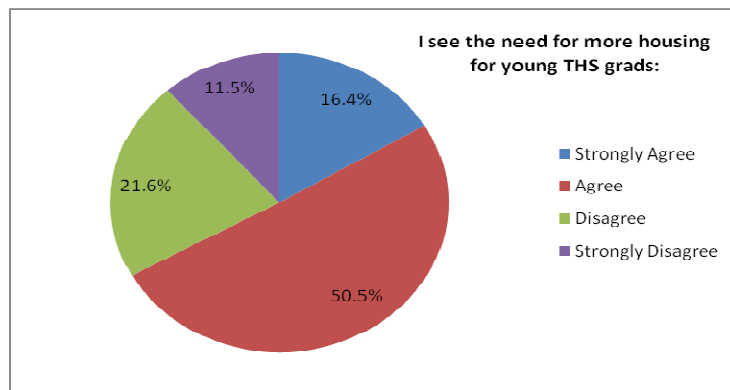
I would like more commerce to enter Trinity.

Strongly Agree
45 students
15.0%
Agree
146 students
48.5%
Disagree
85 students
28.2%
Strongly Disagree
25 students
8.3%

Recreation Related Questions:

If there were sidewalks in Trinity, I would use them.
All the time
43 students
14.1%
Frequently
46 students
15.1%
Sometimes
99 students
32.5%
Rarely
52 students
17.0%
Never
66 students
21.3%

I would utilize public greenways (Corridor of undeveloped land, along a river or between urban centers, that is reserved for recreational use or environmental protection):
All the time
39 students
12.9%
Frequently
63 students
20.8%
Sometimes
121 students
39.9%
Rarely
45 students
14.9%
Never
35 students
11.6%

If bike paths were present in Trinity, I would bike:
All the time
32 students
10.5%
Frequently
51 students
16.8%
Sometimes
78 students
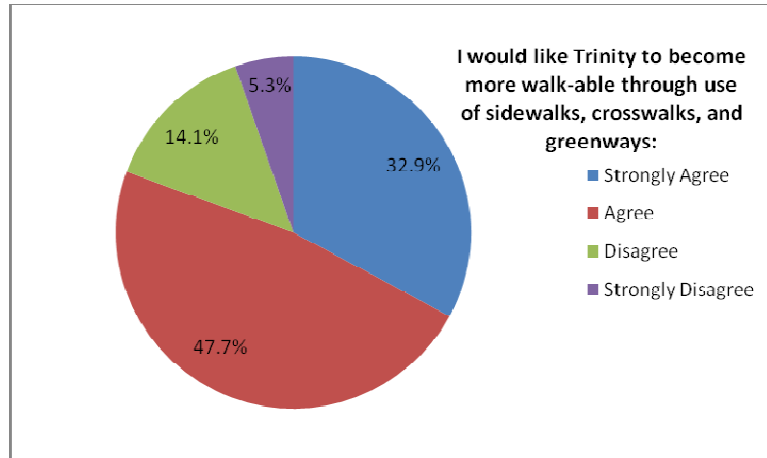25.7%
Rarely
65 students
21.4%
Never
78 students
25.7%

I would like Trinity to become more walk-able through use of sidewalks, crosswalks, and greenways.

Strongly Agree
100 students
32.9%
Agree
145 students
47.7%
Disagree
43 students
14.1%
Strongly Disagree
16 students
5.3%

I would like to see a Veteran's Memorial at City Hall.

Strongly Agree
66 students
21.9%
Agree
183 students
60.8%
Disagree
39 students
13.0%
Strongly Disagree
13 students
4.3%

I would like to see a small amphi-theater on the City's property.

Strongly Agree
65 students
21.4%
Agree
159 students
52.3%
Disagree
61 students
20.1%
Strongly Disagree
19 students
6.2%

I would like to see a public park on the City's property.

Strongly Agree
99 students
32.8%
Agree
169 students
56.0%
Disagree
24 students
7.9%
Strongly Disagree
10 students
3.3%
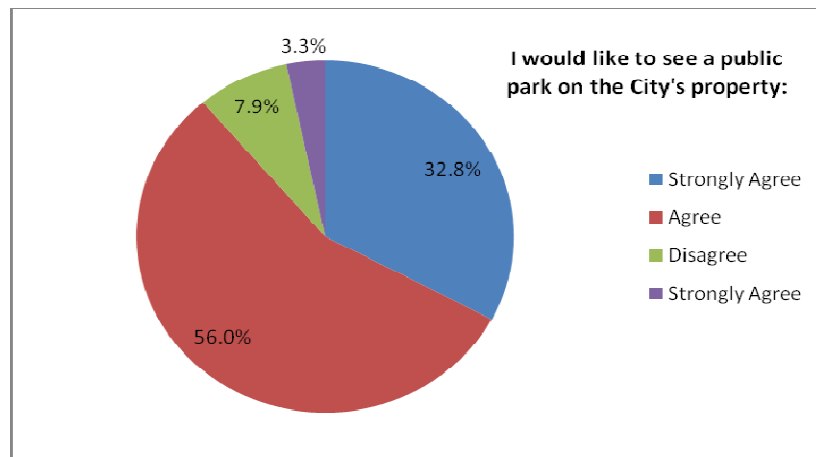
I would appreciate local space for the arts.

Strongly Agree
51 students
16.7%
Agree
119 students
38.9%
Disagree
100 students
32.7%
Strongly Disagree
36 students
11.8%

How important would a local library be to you?

Very
46 students
15.3%
Somewhat
75 students
24.9%
Neutral
79 students
26.2%
Not Really
54 students
17.9%
Not at all
47 students
15.6%

Historic Preservation Related Questions

How important should preservation of 19th Century structures be in the Center City Plan?

Very
78 students
25.9%
Somewhat
88 students
29.2%
Neutral
90 students
29.9%
Not Really
30 students
10.0%
Not at all
15 students
5.0%

How important should preservation of early 20th Century structures be in the Center City Plan?

Very
70 students
23.2%
Somewhat
108 students
35.8%
Neutral
90 students
29.8%
Not Really
21 students
7.0%
Not at all
13 students
4.3%

Did you know that Trinity was the birthplace of Duke University?

Yes
271 students
89.1%
No
33 students
10.9%

The Bell Gazebo is _____ important to me.
Very
28 students
9.2%
Somewhat
38 students
12.5%
Neutral
79 students
25.9%
Not Really
77 students
25.2%
Not at all
83 students
27.2%

The New Gazebo (located in Trinity Community Park across from Braxton- Craven School) is _____ important to me.
Very
15 students
4.9%
Somewhat
35 students
11.5%
Neutral
83 students
27.2%
Not Really
86 students
28.2%
Not at all
86 students
28.2%

Demographics:

Gender:

Male
166 students
54.8%
Female
137 students
45.2%

Grade Level:

6th
N/A
9th
83 students
27.3%
10th
102 students
33.6%
11th
68 students
22.4%
12th
51 students
16.8%

What do you most often do after school?

Activity	Percent	Students
Go home	47.7%	146
Go to a friend's house	27.1%	83
Other	23.2%	71
Go to work	22.9%	70
Participate in Sports	16.7%	51
Go to a team practice	9.5%	29
Attend an Afterschool Activity	8.5%	26
Go shopping	8.8%	27
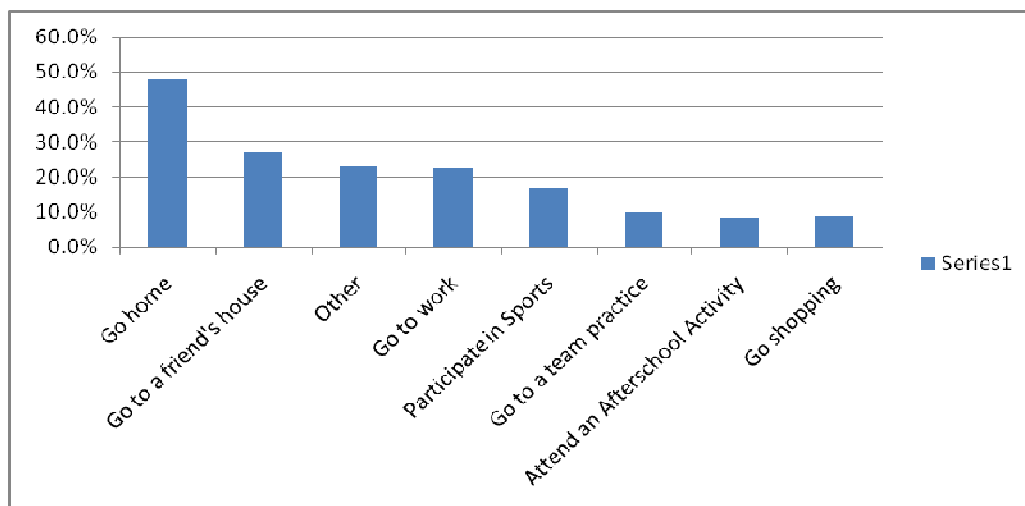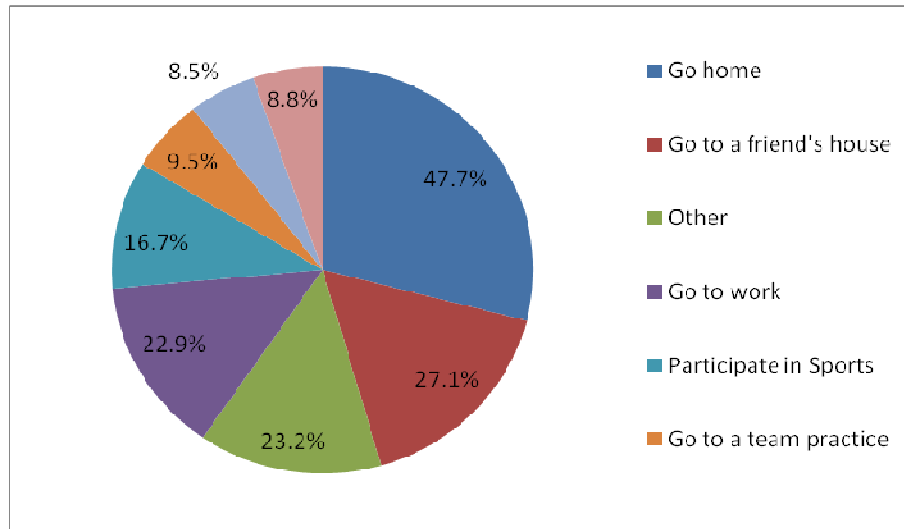
If a public park were to open at City Hall which features would you prefer? Please Rank 1st choice through 5th.

8) **Skateboard Park-** 60.3% None, 12.0% 1st, 4.0% 2nd, 2.3% 3rd, 5.3% 4th, 6.0% 5th
7) **Dog Park-** 67.0% None, 8.0% 1st, 5.0% 2nd, 8.0% 3rd, 5.0% 4th, 7.0% 5th
11) **Frisbee Golf-** 86.7% None, 1.7% 1st, 2.0% 2nd, 4.0% 3rd, 3.7% 4th, 2.0% 5th
12) **Geocaching-** 88.7% None, 3.0% 1st, 3.0% 2nd, 1.0% 3rd, 3.0% 4th, 1.3% 5th
5) **Picnic Area-** 43.0% None, 5.7% 1st, 9.0% 2nd, 14.0% 3rd, 16.7% 4th, 11.7% 5th
2) **Hiking Trails-** 41.3% None, 10.0% 1st, 18.3% 2nd, 11.0% 3rd, 10.7% 4th, 8.7% 5th
1) **Fishing Pond-** 43.7% None, 16.3% 1st, 14.3% 2nd, 11.0% 3rd, 9.0% 4th, 5.7% 5th
4) **Basketball Court-** 46.0% None, 12.3% 1st, 11.0% 2nd, 10.7% 3rd, 9.3% 4th, 10.7% 5th
9) **Tennis Court-** 69.3% None, 4.3% 1st, 6.3% 2nd, 5.0% 3rd, 6.0% 4th, 9.0% 5th
13) **Arboretum-** 92.0% None, 0% 1st, 1.7% 2nd, 1.0% 3rd, 2.0% 4th, 3.3% 5th,
10) **Gardens-** 71.7% None, 2.7% 1st, 3.3% 2nd, 5.3% 3rd, 5.3% 4th, 11.7% 5th
6) **Playground-** 49.7% None, 8.7% 1st, 8.3% 2nd, 12.3% 3rd, 10.3% 4th, 10.7% 5th
3) **Exercise Stations**- 45.8% None, 14.0% 1st, 11.7% 2nd, 11.0% 3rd, 8.7% 4th, 8.7% 5th

Rank	Amenity	Total Score
1	Fishing Pond	587
2	Hiking Trails	559
3	Exercise Stations	527
4	Basketball Courts	501
5	Picnic Area	454
6	Playgrounds	435
7	Dog Park	303
8	Skate Park	299
9	Tennis	249
10	Gardens	195
11	Frisbee Golf	113
12	Geocaching	112
13	Arboretum	51
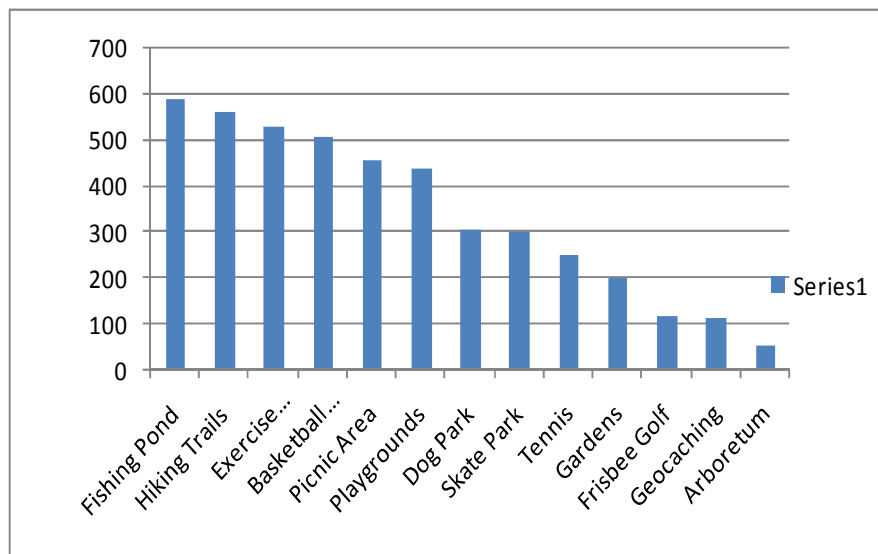
The City is considering improvements around the community for pedestrians and bicyclists. Please prioritize the following elements from 1 to 7 with 1 being the highest priority and 7 being the lowest.

<u>1)</u>**Sidewalks on NC 62-** 27.9% 1st, 17.7% 2nd, 11.7% 3rd, 6.8% 4th, 9.1% 5th, 8.3% 6th, 18.5% 7th
<u>3)</u>**Sidewalks on Surrett Drive-** 12.8% 1st, 22.6% 2nd, 15.1% 3rd, 13.6% 4th, 9.8% 5th, 21.1% 6th, 4.9% 7th
<u>2)</u>**Sidewalks on High School Drive and Meadowbrook Road-** 14.8% 1st, 14.8% 2nd, 24.0% 3rd, 10.6% 4th, 17.5% 5th, 8.4% 6th, 9.9% 7th
<u>5)</u>**Bike Lanes (dedicated land as part of the street) on NC 62-** 10.4% 1st, 11.6% 2nd, 12.7% 3rd, 27.0% 4th, 12.7% 5th, 11.6% 6th, 13.9% 7th,
<u>6)</u>**Bike Lanes (dedicated land as part of the street) on Surrett Drive-** 3.1% 1st, 15.1% 2nd, 13.2% 3rd, 16.7% 4th, 30.6% 5th, 15.5% 6th, 5.8% 7th
<u>7)</u>**Bike Lanes (dedicated land as part of the street) on High School Drive and Meadowbrook Road-** 6.2% 1st, 14.3% 2nd, 15.4% 3rd, 9.7% 4th, 15.4% 5th, 25.9% 6th, 13.1% 7th
<u>4)</u>**Greenways (Bicycle and Pedestrian paths that typically follow streams)-** 27.9% 1st, 6.4% 2nd, 9.4% 3rd, 16.2% 4th, 3.8% 5th, 4.5% 6th, 31.7% 7th

<u>Amenity</u>	<u>Total Score</u>	<u>Rank</u>
Sidewalks on 62	1192	1
Sidewalks on Surrett	1145	2
Sidewalks on High School & Meadow-brook	1142	3
Greenways	1055	4
Bike Paths on 62	1009	5
Bike Paths on Surrett	964	6
Bike Paths on High School & Meadow-brook	922	7
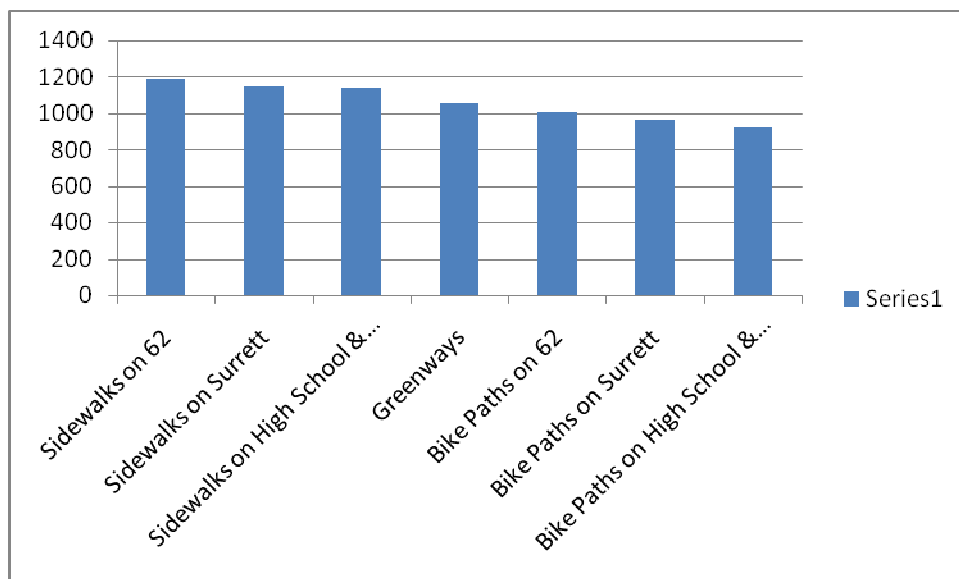
If the City constructed a greenway path that connected the City Hall with the YMCA being constructed in Archdale, would you (check all that apply):

(.67 Mean)-**Use it for recreation as a way to get exercise and enjoy the outdoors**- 205 students, 67.4%

(.49 Mean)-**Ride from your house to the school, park, or YMCA**- 150 students, 49.3%

(.41 Mean)-**Travel from School to the YMCA for afterschool activities and events**- 125 students, 41.1%

(.28 Mean)-**I would probably not use the greenway path**- 84 students, 27.6%

Crosstabulations

Crosstabulations allow one to see how many students that answered one question with a particular answer gave a certain answer to another question. This allows one to compare students opinions about two separate questions and thus determine if the answers are related.

Crosstabulation of "Frequent Coffee Shop" & "More Commerece"						
Count						
		'more commerce',				
		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
'frequent coffee shop',	All the Time	7	35	19	3	64
	Frequently	15	24	15	2	56
	Sometimes	8	29	18	5	60
	Rarely	9	22	19	7	57
	Never	6	35	13	8	62
	Total	45	145	84	25	299

Crosstabulation of "More Retail Venues" & "More Commerce"						
Count						
		'more commerce',				
		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
'more retail venues',	Strongly Agree	30	49	22	7	108
	Agree	14	82	45	6	147
	Disagree	1	9	17	4	31
	Strongly Disagree	0	2	1	8	11
	Total	45	142	85	25	297

Crosstablualtion of "Stay in Trinity" & "Grade Level"

Count		'Grade Level',				
		9th	10th	11th	12th	Total
'stay in Trinity after graduation',	Strongly Agree	6	4	4	8	22
	Agree	10	11	7	7	35
	Undecided	39	32	25	15	111
	Disagree	8	23	8	6	45
	Strongly Disagree	20	32	24	15	91
	Total	83	102	68	51	304

Crosstabulation of "Utilize Public Greenways" & Public Park on City Property"

Count		'public park on city property',				
		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
'utilize public greenways',	All the Time	18	16	2	2	38
	Frequently	22	38	2	0	62
	Sometimes	32	79	10	0	121
	Rarely	16	21	7	1	45
	Never	9	15	3	7	34
	Total	97	169	24	10	300

Crosstabulation of "Use Sidewalks" & "Public Park on City Property"

Count		'public park on city property',				
		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Dis-agree	Total
'use sidewalks?',	All the Time	25	14	2	1	42
	Frequently	22	23	1	0	46
	Sometimes	27	63	8	0	98
	Rarely	10	37	3	1	51
	Never	15	31	10	8	64
	Total	99	168	24	10	301

Crosstabluation of "Use Sidewalks" & "More Walkable Community"

Count		'more walkable community',				
		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Dis-agree	Total
'use sidewalks?',	All the Time	34	6	2	1	43
	Frequently	29	16	0	0	45
	Sometimes	26	64	8	0	98
	Rarely	6	33	11	2	52
	Never	5	26	21	13	65
	Total	100	145	42	16	303

Crosstabulation of "Utilize Public Greenways" & "More Walkable Community"						
Count						
		'more walkable community',				
		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Dis-agree	Total
'utilize public greenways',	All the Time	20	15	2	2	39
	Frequently	29	29	5	0	63
	Sometimes	34	64	20	1	119
	Rarely	11	23	10	1	45
	Never	6	12	5	12	35
	Total	100	143	42	16	301